

## SPORTS



### First road races this season

17-year-old Oleg Venulyanov from Simferopol, silver medalist of the latest world youth biathlon championship, triumphed in the 50 km road race games out of the first three they have played so far, with only the first game drawn.

The contest, held in Dushanbe, Tadzhikistan, opened a new season for the young racers, whose pinnacle will be the world championship, scheduled in France on August 12-19.

The road racers preparing for the Peace Race and the

Olympics are also having their first meets this season. April will be a particularly busy month for them as all the aspirants to the national Olympic team will be put through their paces in races in Greece, West Germany and Italy.

Among the hopefuls are Olympic champions Sergei Sakharchenkov, Oleg Logvin and Yuri Kashirin, and world champions Oleg Churilov, Sergei Novolokin and Alexander Zinov'yev.

### SOVIET FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GETS OFF THE GROUND

The first tour has been played in the 47th USSR Football Championship. Although it is too early to make any predictions, the experience of the two previous championships suggest that the rest of the championship will be interesting. The two latest champions, Dynamo of Minsk and the Dinamo of Dnepropetrovsk, used to be somewhere in the middle of the tournament table and never dreamed of becoming champions. But filled with resolve to fight for gold medals, they eventually won places at the top.

This year's championship will show just how serious the intentions of the new favorites are, and it is quite possible that some of the more "inconspicuous" teams will join the top.

The 1984 football season has now been launched.

Connady LEONOV

### The third day decided all

A national record marked the match of the USSR and GDR swimmers just ended in Kirov. 19-year-old Tatjana Kurnikova from Baku swam the 200 m butterfly in 2 min 11.31 sec. The record-holder was also the

best in the 100 m event — 1:00.81.

But as a result of the three-day struggle the visitors proved stronger at 178-166. The point is that on the last day of the match our swimmers won only two events out of a total ten.

### Wrestlers compete

Soviet Greco-Roman wrestlers scored four wins of the international "Liberation Prize" tournament in Hungary, which drew 118 entrants from 13 nations.

The first placas were taken by Minsen Taseidinov from Olyanovsk (under 52 kg), Tatjana Kalinina from Omsk (under 57 kg), Mikhail Prokudin from Minsk (under 60 kg), and Igor Rastorokov (over 100 kg) from Karaganda.

The "Challenge Maurice Paquet", the annual international Greco-Roman wrestling tournament held outside Paris recently, brought success to the USSR. All six Soviet entrants won through to competition with rivals from 11 nations.

For the USSR this was the second such tournament, which honours outstanding French athlete and coach Maurice Paquet.

"Moscow News" and "MN Information" give you a full idea of life in the Soviet Union for the week.

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DEAR READERS, "MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies.

Nothing short of the material carried in the editions of both

### Keegan quits football

One of the strongest European footballers, Englishman Kevin Keegan, is quitting the game this season. He has captained the national side more than once, and whose jersey he donned 64 times. He was voted by now men the best player of Europe. Now at 33, Keegan thinks that the time has come to say goodbye to football.

Football, he told newsmen, helped me make many friends in different countries, and I would therefore like to arrange a farewell match between the Newcastle team for which I play now and an all-world team in which I'd like to see many of my friends. It FIFA agrees to

this, the match will be held in spring.

Over 20 years have passed since FIFA set up an all-world team, which in Britain to mark the 110th anniversary of the English Football Association.

The goal of the then all-world side was defended by noted Soviet footballer Lev Yashin who was considered the best world goalkeeper at the time. Alongside him were such stars as Osvaldo of Spain, Eusebio of Portugal, and Santos of Brazil.

It has been decided since then to celebrate great occasions by games involving an all-world side.

Vladimir McMillan

### SKI-JORING ON MOTORCYCLES

Motorjoring held this winter at Ruhpolding, West Germany, provided a lot of concern for the organizers. First due to the lack of snow, they had to fill the local stadium with 700 cm of snow. Later high temperatures caused the snow to melt and the races became stuck in it, which is why the speeds dropped considerably.



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### FINALISTS CONTINUE CONTEST

In the world chess championship both the men and women continue their contests. Ina Levitina of Leningrad beat Li-dya Semyonova of Kiev in two games out of the first three they have played so far, with only the first game drawn.

In Vilnius, the match between Vassily Smyslov of Moscow and Gari Kasparov of Riga is being played with great intensity.

The two cointenders drew the first two games.

Winning the third game, Kasparov now leads 2-1.

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### 'An act of piracy on the high seas'

Andrii Gromyko, Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, has delivered a note to the USSR Government in Charge of Affairs at the United States Embassy in Moscow which reads as follows:

On March 20, the Soviet tanker, "The Lagan", hit a mine and was damaged while approaching the Norwegian port of Sandnes. A number of the crew were wounded.

The Soviet Government lays responsibility for this serious damage, which is an act of piracy on the high seas, on the US Government.

The Soviet note stresses that it is common knowledge that the United States is engaged in

(Continued on page 2)



The current mass anti-war demonstrations in Spain are demanding a referendum on the country's participation in NATO and a withdrawal of American military bases from Spain.

The photo shows people demonstrating for peace in a Madrid suburb.

Photo EFE-TASS

## POLITBUREAU WEEKLY MEETING

At its regular weekly meeting the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee considered the preliminary results of the nationwide discussion of the CPSU Central Committee's draft project "Basic guidelines for the reform of secondary and vocational schools".

It was stressed that the discussion of the draft had acquired national dimensions. Ways of improving the school work were subjected to thorough examination at meetings of work collectives, in secondary and vocational schools, in establishments of higher education and technical colleges, and at teachers' conferences. The draft was the subject of businesslike discussion at parents' meetings. Every day there were articles in the press and TV and radio programmes on the subject.

As a result of the nationwide discussion many valuable comments and suggestions were received. The Politbureau agreed with proposals put forward by the Commission for the Reform of Secondary and Vocational Schools that these comments and suggestions be inserted in the appropriate legal enactments, and that they be taken into consideration when improving the work of educational establishments.

The meeting approved the patriotic initiative shown by the collectives of builders of the Belkam-Mainline (BAM) who have undertaken socialist commitments to complete, ahead of schedule, the laying of the main railroad track — by the 67th anniversary of the Great October — and to open whole line to traffic a year earlier than planned. The Politbureau noted that this initiative on the part of the work force is of great political and economic significance. The early opening of the line to traffic will help to accelerate the development of productive forces of Siberia and the Far East, making the large stocks of coal, timber and other natural resources available to the economy. The appropriate Party, Soviet, Trade Union and YCL bodies as well as Ministries and Departments have been instructed to render all-out assistance to the work collectives and public organizations of the BAM in the implementation of their commitment, to intensify measures for accelerated construction along the Mainline of housing and cultural and everyday facilities, and to make full use of the opportunities afforded by the socialist emulation drive to fulfill targets for the manufacture and delivery to the project of machinery, equipment and materials.

(Continued on page 2)

### LIFE GETS BACK TO NORMAL IN GAZLI AFTER EARTHQUAKE

A strong earthquake in Central Asia has damaged towns and villages in the Bokhara Rayon of Uzbekistan. The epicentre was not far from the town of Gazli. This new town for gas extractors in the Kyzylkum has been struck once again by the eleventh major having been raised from ruins after the 1970 earthquake. The tremors here reached 9 on the Richter scale.

The first task was to provide the population with medical aid and accommodation. A canvas tent village has been put up near Gazli.

Non-stop convoys of lorries drive along the Bokhara-Gazli highway, carrying food, mattresses, building materials and medicines to the disaster area. Workmen from all parts of the republic are arriving to repair the damaged houses and enterprises. Electricity, gas and water supplies were quickly restored. A new plan for the rebuilding of Gazli is already being drawn up. Meanwhile repairs to the buildings that survived are going at full speed.

### ANNA KONDRAHOVA WALKS OFF WITH SILVER MEDAL

The world figure-skating championship in Ottawa, Canada, began with a joyful event for Soviet figure-skating lovers. 18-year-old Anna Kondrashova, a college student from Moscow, won the women's singles silver medal, the first such grand award in the history of the Soviet figure-skating school.

Such a rapid ascent on the podium for Kondrashova was a surprise, even for experts, as she placed only fifth in her debut at last year's world championship. This has been her most successful season to date. She came second in the "Moscow News" Prize tournament, won the bronze medal in the European championship and placed fifth at the 1984 Olympics.

I am happy to have won the silver award at the world championship, even though I think I failed to make full use of my potential on the Ottawa ice, she said after the event.

The first place was taken by 18-year-old Olympic champion, Katalina Witt, of the GDR. World ex-champion, American Eileen Zayak, was third. Third Olympic bronze-medalist, Kira Ivanova, of the USSR, placed fourth.



There was hardly any doubt about the success of the Olympic pair champions, Yelena Vaylova and Oleg Vasil'yev, of the USSR. After the Olympics the

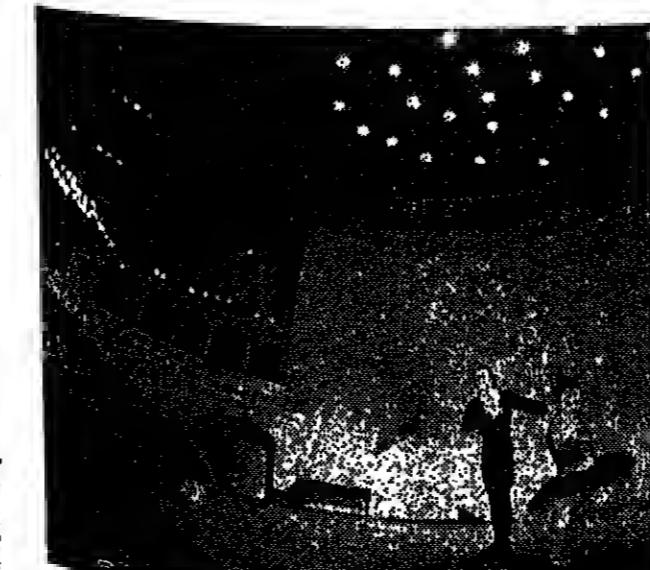
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### National ballet competition

The Tchaikovsky Concert Hall is now the venue for the final round of the national ballet competition. Taking part are nearly 70 dancers, and the jury is led by Bolshoi chief choreographer Yuri Grigorovich. The entrants are divided into two age groups — from 15 to 19 and from 19 to 28. The best of them will be awarded prizes and the title of laureate.

The contest is one of the preparations for the annual International Ballet Competition, due to be held in Moscow next year.

## AFGHANS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE U.S. EMBASSY

Kabul. More than 100 thousand and citizens of the Afghan capital took part in a demonstration held in front of the US Embassy in Kabul expressing their anger and indignation over White House policy with regard to the DRA.

The military of Foreign Affairs of the DRA circulated a declaration here condemning a sharp protest against President Reagan's anti-Afghan pronouncements. Quoted recently, reads the declaration, the head of the White House issued yet more inciting and false allegations in connection with the so-called 'Day of Afghanistan' which is used by the American administration to fan a campaign of malicious attacks against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Over the past six years, stresses the document, the enemies of the Afghan people have tried in vain to halt the pro-

gressive march of the Afghan Revolution. The United States plays a leading role in the escalation of the armed aggression and propaganda war against the DRA.

The declaration points out that in raising a commotion over the so-called Afghan problem, the US administration is attempting by all means of its disposal to deflect world attention from the adventurous and aggressive militaristic line pursued by the White House. It tries to push up its criminal interference into the internal affairs of other countries and to subdue the powerful wave of world-wide protest aroused by the US invasion of Grenada, its aggression in Lebanon and armed provocations against Nicaragua. Cuba and other independent states. The 'Afghan problem' is one of the pretexts used by the USA to justify its military preparations.

## 'AN ACT OF PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS'

(Continued from page 1)

direct interference into the affairs of the sovereign Central American states and is waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua. Official US agencies finance, train, and equip gangs of mercenaries and terrorists who invade Nicaraguan territory, plundering and murdering the civilian population.

It is also known that these groups include representatives of the US special services. Thus the United States is practicing a policy of state terrorism.

The Soviet Governmental press in no uncertain terms, reads the note, to the US Government over this criminal act perpetrated against the Soviet ship, 'The Leningrad', and warns that the United States will bear full responsibility for the consequences which may ensue should this sort of action be continued.

Managua. Following the incident involving the Soviet tanker, 'The Leningrad', Daniel Ortega, Member of the National



Drawing by Yuri Ivanov

## Syria: confirming a principled line

agreement with Israel forced on Lebanon by the US.

The president emphasized that despite the political, economic and military pressure of imperialism led by the USA, Syria will毫不妥协地 follow an anti-imperialist course.

On the subject of Syrian-Soviet relations, the president stressed that they were of a long-term nature and met the mutual interests of the peoples of both countries. Our relations are good, he stressed. We have common views on all basic problems. The Soviet Union supports the struggle of the Syrian people. The president urged the members of the government to actively support further development of Syrian-Soviet links and to strengthen cooperation with the USSR and other countries of the socialist community.

The president confirmed the principled position of Syria in its relations with Arab countries and stressed the need to consolidate Inter-Arab solidarity. Syria, he stressed, will continue to give help to the people of Lebanon in the cause of reaching national accord. He spoke highly of the struggle of the Lebanese national patriotic forces, which have achieved the eradication of the oppressive

Yuri GVOZDEV



## VIEWPOINT

## USA: ESCALATION OF UNDECLARED WARS

At the present time the USA is involved in several undeclared wars against non-aligned nations. One of the main fronts is in Central America, primarily threatening Nicaragua. It is not by accident that the UN New York headquarters recently hosted an emergency meeting of the Coordination Bureau of the non-aligned nations, which condemned the criminal actions of the CIA and the Pentagon. The participants demanded an immediate halt to all foreign maneuvers and other activities in Central America, as well as threats, attacks and other hostile actions against Nicaragua. They emphatically favoured a refusal to create foreign military bases there. Under the circumstances solidarity with Managua acquires an especially principled nature for the Non-Aligned Movement.

Remarkably, of the 7th Summit in Delhi in March 1983 the non-aligned nations condemned the

US interventionist policies in Central America and the Caribbean. One of the main fronts is in Central America, primarily threatening Nicaragua. It is not by accident that the UN New York headquarters recently hosted an emergency meeting of the Coordination Bureau of the non-aligned nations, which condemned the criminal actions of the CIA and the Pentagon. The participants demanded an immediate halt to all foreign maneuvers and other activities in Central America, as well as threats, attacks and other hostile actions against Nicaragua. They emphatically favoured a refusal to create foreign military bases there. Under the circumstances solidarity with Managua acquires an especially principled nature for the Non-Aligned Movement.

The USA still not only disregards the opinion of the Movement which criticizes over 100 nations, but continues its escalation of undeclared wars — that against Afghanistan, a war that draws funds from the same US, the one which pays for CIA mercenaries wreaking death and destruction in Nicaragua and other gangs operating in various parts of the globe.

In the light of the current aggressive US strategy against non-aligned nations there is no doubt, too, about the nature of yet another undeclared war — that against Afghanistan, a war that draws funds from the same US, the one which pays for CIA mercenaries wreaking death and destruction in Nicaragua and other gangs operating in various parts of the globe.

The United States' undeclared war against non-aligned nations is growing in scale. This, together with a US-inspired escalation in the arms race, is causing more tension and increasing the threat of a world nuclear disaster and contradicts the vital interests of all humanity.

## EEC: profound crisis

Brussels. Complete disarray and disorientation reign in the Common Market ruling circles following the failure of the European Communities Conference meeting which has ended as a 'complete failure' by the Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou.

Speaking on national television, the French President, François Mitterrand, who is the spokesman for the European Community Council, admitted that the results of the meeting have caused 'deep disappointment' among the participants, and that the Conference is now in a state of crisis. The main reason for the failure, he declared, is the position adopted by Great Britain which has pitted itself against the other EEC countries.

In the meantime, the British Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, speaking in parliament, let it be known that in response to the decision taken at the emergency meeting of EEC ministers, which took place after the Council session — not to pay Britain nearly \$30 million dollars out of its last year's budget, she will review the question of whether to stop paying contributions to the EEC budget.

The preparation of the report

ment which was gathering on his nerves.

The Reagan administration is also acting very provocatively towards India by covertly or otherwise supporting any forces hostile to her — from the separatists in her border areas to the military regime in Pakistan which now receives billions of dollars in arms from the Pentagon. Could the USA be preparing for a large-scale undeclared war here, too, fuel India's anxiety over US plays in Sri Lanka? It is also understandable where Washington plans to set up a headquarters of the Central Command (CENTCOM) to coordinate operations by its interventionist rapid deployment forces.

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## POLITBUREAU WEEKLY MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

The Politbureau of the Central Committee approves the talks between Kostin Chernenko, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Helmut Schmidt, Minister of National Defense of the FRG.

Also discussed and approved the talks between Kostin Chernenko and Helmut Schmidt, member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, chairman of the SPD faction in the Bundestag, as well as between an SDP delegation and a group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies led by Anatoly Karmayev. The main subject discussed was European security and the curbing of the arms race, in view of the dynamics of the new American missiles in certain Western European countries. The Politbureau stressed the importance of points raised during the talks concerning the need to make a real change for the better in the dangerous development of events in the world, at the same time, and a reduction of the nuclear arms race on the basis of the principles of parity and equal security.

The Stockholm Conference opens up a new possibility for the restoration of mutual trust and for removal of the risk of military confrontation, note the authors of the appeal. This possibility must be used to the full, conducting dialogue and elaborating wide-ranging measures which are geographically acceptable and carry a politically binding character for the creation of trust. An end must be put to the dangerous spiral in the nuclear arms race.

It is stressed in the appeal that in the emerging situation efforts must be directed towards creating prerequisites for the resumption of negotiations.

## SOVIET EDUCATION CONTRIBUTES TO GHANA'S ECONOMY

Accra. Its 10th anniversary has been celebrated by the Association of Ghanaian graduates from Soviet colleges and universities at a ceremony in the Industrial city of Tema not far from the capital.

In discussing the results of Gohar Aliyev's visit to the Ghanaian Republic it was stressed that the steady development and expansion of relations between the Soviet Union and Ghana are the interests of the peoples of both countries and the cause of peace in the Middle East.

The Politbureau also discussed some other questions concerning the implementation of the internal and foreign policy of the CPSU and Soviet State.

More than a thousand Ghanaian specialists, who graduated from Soviet higher educational establishments, are now working in different branches of the country's economy. Almost the same number of students from Ghana are now receiving their education in the Soviet Union. The ceremony was addressed by the Association's President, Victor Agay, and other members of the organization who noted their highly developed skills and the contribution that the graduates of Soviet colleges and universities had made to the development of the national economy. They also expressed gratitude to the USSR for its selfless assistance.

They designed a packing for medicines on the cover of which they inserted a Welch of liquid crystals. When the cover is shut the Welch begins to count the time and when opened again returns to 'zero'.

## NO FORGETTING WITH THESE PILLS

Strict observance of the intervals between taking medicine is an indispensable condition for the treatment of many diseases. It is often very difficult to remember how long ago you took the last pill. Engineers from the pharmaceutical company Zissemid decided to help patients to this.

They designed a packing for

medicines on the cover of

which they inserted a Welch of

methane gas.

methane gas. When the cover is shut the Welch begins to count the time and when opened again returns to 'zero'.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

methane gas.

methane gas

## HOME NEWS

### Round the Soviet Union

LARGE-SCALE MEASURES HAVE BEEN OUTLINED IN THE USSR TO ENSURE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY'S FUEL-AND-ENERGY BALANCE UP TO THE END OF THIS CENTURY. This is stated in the book, "Guidelines of the USSR Long-Term Energy Programme", issued by Moscow's Politicheskaya Literatura Publishing House. The new approach to the energy problem has in no way been necessitated by a shortage of natural resources. The USSR is the only major industrialized state, which is fully self-sufficient in fuel and energy due to its rich natural resources. The Soviet Union also exports large quantities of fuel and electricity.

THE DZERZHINSKY MINE IN THE CITY OF KRYVOI ROG IN THE UKRAINE, HAS PRODUCED ITS MILLIONTH TONNE OF ORE CONCENTRATE OBTAINED FROM MAGNETITE QUARTZITE. These so-called poor ores which used to be left underground because of their low iron content were enriched for the first time at the mine five years ago. At present, "re-exploitation" of the other mines in the basin is underway where thousands of millions of tonnes of quazizite have been accumulated.

### WITHOUT ADDITIONAL EXPENSE

A catalytic cracking unit which has gone into operation at the Novo-Bakinsky oil refinery in Azerbaijan, a Transcaucasian republic, makes it possible to increase production of quazizite.

For instance, the use of heavy oil components, left over after

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING BEFORE THE REFORM



This picture was taken at the Moscow Vocational Training School No. 180. The school trains turners, fitters, electricians, radio engineers and workers for some other trades.

There are over 7,500 vocational training schools in this country with a total of over

3.7 million students. During a one- to three-year period, depending on the initial level of learning and the complexity of the chosen trade (training is provided in about 1,400 trades), the students become highly qualified workers.

At many large enterprises and industrial construction projects

distillation and earlier used as boiler fuel, makes possible increased production of high octane gasoline at the works.

The re-refining of oil refining industry in Azerbaijan is proceeding at a rapid pace.

Powerful complexes for oil refining, as well as for catalytic

refining have been put into operation in recent years. The production of a tonne of fuel requires five per cent less raw material than at the beginning of the five-year plan period (1981-85). The re-refining will also help solve a number of ecological problems.

at electricity needed to heat the building by 25 per cent.

It is obvious that solar energy would be particularly advantageous in the heating of public buildings which are used mostly during the day, such as kindergartens, schools, canteens, etc. The simple, non-rectifying solar heaters would not only reduce fuel consumption, but would also lower pollution levels.

### DOING SCHOOLWORK IN ONES OR TWOS?

PROFOUND QUALITATIVE changes are taking place in the Soviet national economy. Some of these changes can be seen at the Moskvič collective, a production association in Moscow, in preparing to produce a new car generation, the enterprise is also renovating itself. Among other things, it is adopting a more flexible automated system at production.

This initiative is described in the newspaper IZVESTIA by Valentin Kalanikov, Director-General of the Moskvič association.

Life itself demanded that we introduce the type of technology which could be conducted quickly in a situation where the design of a car must be changed under the influence of demand. This means replacing machine tools performing individual operations with automated technological complexes which can be re-adjusted to another type at work with the aid of computers.

In the second they were laid to work in two, and in the third, the pairs were arranged so that one of the children played the part of teacher and the other that of pupil.

In all three groups, all the second-grade children completed ten problems, and then each pupil was asked to work on his or her own again.

It turned out that when the problems were difficult, the future schoolchildren did them better when they worked on them together than when they were on their own. This type of work was most beneficial for those children who first showed inferior performance. By the end of the experiment the children with better performance showed lower results, possibly because they had been carried away by their role as teacher and lost control of their performing abilities. The advantages of joint work were local, revealed in the group where the roles in each pair had been arranged beforehand.

In order to find out just how promising solar heating could be, an experiment was carried out. A solar radiation air heater was assembled in a special experimental house in the town of Tynda. It consisted of a corrugated metal screen painted black. This screen was made part of a wall. At night, the screen was covered by special protective heat-insulating shingles from within the building. The same system served to heat the room. The solar radiation heated the black screen which, in turn, warmed up the air in the room.

What are the benefits of such a simple device? It has turned out that the use of the solar radiation air heater throughout the year reduced the consumption

### Power engineering in the Soviet Far East

The construction of a large-scale power transmission line has started in the far East. The 500,000-volt powerline, stretching for 400 km will link two major industrial centres—Khabarovsk and Komsomol'sk-on-Amur. Current from the Bilya Hydro-power Station will make it possible, even by the end of the year, to treble the potential of the Komsomol'sk-on-Amur territorial-industrial complex.

The accelerated growth of productive forces in the remote districts of the Khabarovsk Territory demand rapid and powerful development. A large power-line substation is being built at Komsomol'sk-on-Amur, and capacity is to be stepped up in shipyards, heavy, light and road transport enterprises. Large powerplants, new mining and power-works enterprises situated locally, are being expanded. Other areas in the Far East are also being developed.

### ROBOTS TO WORK FURNACES

Robots to work furnaces in major industries are now being produced commercially in Russia.

Up to now, the leading factory was one of the most difficult operations involved in the production of bricks. Workers loading trolleys with raw materials are exposed to high temperatures several times during a shift. Today this job is done by robots and all that is required of an operator is to press a button.

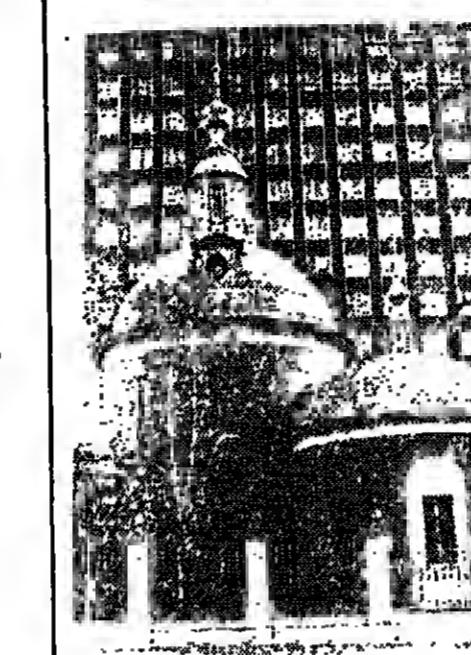
By the end of the present five-year plan period (1981-85), robots will be introduced into 25 construction materials factories.

There are two remarkable architectural monuments in the side-street, one at each end: the former Church of Cosma and Damjan (top photo), built in classical style in the late 18th century by Mikhail Kozakov, the architect, whom we owe many of the beautiful buildings which adorn our city. The church was restored fifteen years ago.

At the far end of Starosadsky "Vladimir the Old Cossack", a unique example of 16th-17th-century architecture (bottom photo). The restoration of this monument is almost completed.

### Places to visit

## TWO MASTERPIECES



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### ELECTRIC STATIONS IN THE OCEAN

The development of towns in the open sea is not an unreal project for the future, maintain scientists working for the Institute of Engineering Problems of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences in Khar'kov. They have suggested an effective power supply for such floating settlements.

The upper layer of water in the tropical and subtropical areas of the planet is heated by the sun up to 30°C, while at a depth of several hundred metres the water is only 5°C to 10°C. It was suggested that this temperature gradient be put to good use to produce electric energy using a special device. It is a turbine rotated by a gaseous flow which is formed by sucking sea water into a vacuum. The heat of the water is used to produce energy using a special device. It is a turbine rotated by a gaseous flow which is formed by sucking sea water into a vacuum. The heat of the water is used to produce energy using a special device.

Let us go back 30 years ago, to 1954, when the development of the Virgin Lands started. Grain harvests at the time were much lower than before the war. The short supply of grain was a serious drag on the national economy, primarily animal husbandry and affected the raising of living standards of Soviet people. The problem called for an immediate solution. The Virgin Lands alone could yield prompt results.

In the space of several years, Virgin-Landers developed 42 million hectares—more than a quarter of the country's total crop land before the war.

Why did we opt for the

Virgin Lands and not, say, the Non-Black Earth Zone where rain and sun are usually sufficient and droughts are not as frequent as in the steppes of Kazakhstan?

There were several reasons for this.

Seventy-five per cent of the Non-Black Earth Zone is acid-sol soil. Ten per cent is marsh land. Five per cent is stony soil. Nine per cent is small forest and scrub land. This land, experts say, is responsive to amelioration and fertilization. In other words, it can produce high and stable yields when it gets enough of both treatments. It is an uphill task, even today, to carry out a sufficient amount of land reclamation work in the Non-Black Earth Zone and provide it sufficiently with fertilizers. In the 1950s, the idea was quite unworkable for the obvious lack of economic and technical resources.

There is another fundamental reason. The Non-Black Earth Zone had had no big tracts of arable land available for ploughing. That, in contrast to the Virgin Lands, greatly reduces the efficiency of machinery. The final tally showed that one would have to spend several times more per hectare or per tonne in the Non-Black Earth Zone than in the Virgin Lands to get greater grain yields. And that even considering the drop in crop figures especially characteristic of the Virgin Lands in the first years.

The onlays to develop the

Virgin Lands have paid off long ago. As early as 1954-55, the Virgin Lands brought in more than 3,000 million rubles in net profit. Today, the USSR annually produces more than twice the amount of grain it did before the Virgin Lands development.

Our crop farmers now spread over a wider geographic area, it is reflected by the needs of nature. Many agricultural techniques originated in the Virgin Lands are now profitably used in traditionally agricultural areas.

In short, the development of the Virgin Lands has paid off itself, although they are far from having realized their potential.

### VIEWPOINT

## WAS IT WORTH PLOUGHING THE VIRGIN LANDS?

Alexander GUBER

Today, when this country is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the development of the Virgin Lands, this question seems hardly appropriate—avoc though it is usually phrased as follows: wouldn't it have been better to channel oil into the development of the Non-Black Earth Zone and other traditional agricultural areas?

Let us go back 30 years ago, to 1954, when the development of the Virgin Lands started. Grain harvests at the time were much lower than before the war. The short supply of grain was a serious drag on the national economy, primarily animal husbandry and affected the raising of living standards of Soviet people. The problem called for an immediate solution. The Virgin Lands alone could yield prompt results.

In the space of several years, Virgin-Landers developed 42 million hectares—more than a quarter of the country's total crop land before the war.

Why did we opt for the

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### Science and technology

#### PROSPECTS

#### OF ORE-DRESSING INDUSTRY

The decision to shut down the Khar'kovsky ore-dressing plant in the Soviet Far East, where the production of pyritic ore became impractical following the sharp reduction in it of mineral compounds, has been cancelled. Lengthening experts suggested a quick method of photometrically controlling locally produced raw material prior to processing. As a result, one-third of the black-tinted iron ore can be found nowhere else in the world. In the lower reaches of the Lena, the scientists found the black-capped marmot, while the graceful white crane has long been protected as a rare species.

The plant is soon to appear as a publication. The Red Data Book of Yakutia, as it will probably be called, will contain descriptions of about 300 species of plants and animals and with recommendations as to how to protect them.

NEW LEMON VARIETY

The lemon of Georgia is no longer afflicted with the trunks and branches of Mel-sarva. Dushkuria—a new variety developed by plant breeders of this Transcaucasian republic—overcomes this threatening fungus.

The new lemon has many other merits. Its yield per hectare is 2.5 tonnes more than that of most other varieties. It can withstand extreme temperatures and eliminate a number of labour-intensive operations normally involved with its care.

Calculated preliminary method makes it possible to achieve impressive cuts in the volume of rock to be crushed, since the process of rock crushing consumes up to 40 per cent of energy in the ore-dressing industry. Results obtained over several years of the introduction of this technology have been shown to be promising in putting into general use.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars

### TAMRIKO GVERDTSITELI



bie, my mother who teaches music, says that I began to sleep when I was ten months old even before I could talk, and that I began to pick out notes on the piano at three, says Tamriko. Aged ten, Tamriko sang with "The Mzuri", a vocal and instrumental ensemble at the Tbilisi "Place of Young Pioneers and Schoolchildren. She was one of the very first members of the ensemble which competed successfully in popularity with many of the established variety groups.

In a few months' time, Tamriko will be graduating from the Tbilisi Conservatoire, where she is studying the piano. She is a soloist with the variety and symphony orchestra at Georgia radio and television.

Tamriko has unusual musical and lyrical gifts, and she has a keen feeling for harmony, says Georgia's singer, Neal Bregvedze. The tunes he writes herself are a vivid evocation of the Georgian soul.

Tamriko's day is packed from start to finish. Apart from her classes at the Conservatoire, she gives concerts and makes recordings for television and radio. A recording studio is making a disc of the best songs she has sung over the past two years.

Music has become the basis of my entire life, says Tamriko. I am going back to study composition at the Conservatoire. I want to write songs professionally. And I want my new songs to be liked by my audience.

**'La Traviata'** back at the Bolshoi Theatre

After a thirty-year interval the Bolshoi opera company in Moscow has done a new production of Verdi's opera, "La Traviata".

There have been over one and a half thousand performances of this opera at the Bolshoi since it was first produced here in 1872. This year's production is different from all previous ones. Cut to the bone, it has been restored, and the staging is in keeping with the composer's original idea.

"La Traviata" is one of the most brilliant and tragic of operas, says Bolshoi conductor Algis Zilraitis. However, its wide popularity and frequent performances have made it too familiar. We seek to remove this familiarity and to return to the composer's tempos and interpretation.

**Brass and percussion contest**

An all-Union contest of brass, wind and percussion instrument musicians is taking place in Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan. About 180 musicians from 30 cities in this country, including 20 Muscovites, are participating.

There are five categories in the contest: trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba and percussion instruments.

No more than five participants will be competing in the final stage. In each round the competitors have to perform a programme which includes Russian and foreign classical music, as well as the works of Soviet and modern foreign composers.

The jury's president is Vladislav Agolnikov.

The contest provides young performers with an opportunity of testing their skills, artistic mastery and discipline. Such contests arouse great interest in this country and are attended by hundreds of people with 100 halls to capacity. There are three or more All-Union contests specializing in various instruments held in this country every year.

Boris IVASHKEVICH

### AFGHAN THEMES

"Afghanistan in Struggle and in Construction" is one of a poetry series by young Afghan poets, which was translated into the Turkmen language by Ashkhabad poet Nobakhty Redzhev.

The poet has long been interested in the history, culture and traditions of the friendly Afghan people, their heroic struggle, and Afghan-Turkmen relations. Several years ago he was on an assignment in the Tashkent Region, which is home to many

Afghanistan also features in Redzhev's newly completed "The Owl of Dzhenshishid".

### Turgenev libretto found

The Russian Literature Institute in Moscow has presented with a xerocopy of an unknown work by the 19th-century Russian writer, Ivan Turgenev to Professor Waddington of New Zealand. This is the libretto for an opera in German without a title. The institute

has also received other materials from abroad intended for the 30-volume edition of Turgenev's complete works and letters to be published here. In recent months more than five hundred letters have been received from Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States.

March 24-28

#### THEATRES

Kremlin Palace of Congresses (Kremlin), 24 (mat) — Concert by the Bolshoi soloists; 24 (eve) — Delibes, "Coppélia"; 24 (mat) — Krennikov, "Our Backyard" (one-act); 25 (mat) — Puccini, "Madame Butterfly" (opera); 25 (eve) — Berezovka Dance Ensemble.

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq.), 24 (mat) — Molchanov, "The Dawn Hero Are Quiet" (opera); 24 (eve) Puccini, "Tosca" (opera); 25 (mat) — Tchakovskiy, "The Nutcracker" (ballet); 25 (eve) — Wagner, "Das Rheingold" (opera).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St.), 24 — Shostakovich, "Katerina Izmelova" (opera); 25 (mat) — Delibes, "Shesha" (ballet); 25 (eve) — Tchakovskiy, "Iolanta" (opera); 26 (mat) — Gladkov, "The Elder Son" (opera); 26 (eve) — Adam, Delibes, "Corsaire" (ballet).

Opera and Ballet Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St.), 24 (mat and eve) Gladkov, "Khottabych"; 24

Legend of the Wild West (17 Pushkinskaya St.), 24 — Shostakovich, "Katerina Izmelova" (opera); 25 (mat) — Delibes, "Shesha" (ballet); 25 (eve) — Tchakovskiy, "Iolanta" (opera); 26 (mat) — Gladkov, "The Elder Son" (opera); 26 (eve) — Adam, Delibes, "Corsaire" (ballet).

Opera Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St.), 24 (mat and eve) Gladkov, "Khottabych"; 24

"Alupka".

### To India with 'The Elephant Child'

The Bolshoi Puppet Theatre Company are touring India with a production of their show "The Elephant Child", based on Rudyard Kipling's fairy tale. They will be performing to young spectators in Delhi and other cities as well as in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. Also in the repertoire for the tour is the Russian fairy tale "The Story of Yemelya", staged by Vladimir Sudanov, the company's director.

This is the Bolshoi Puppet Theatre's first visit to India though their work is well known in Hungary, West France, and Japan. On two occasions the company received awards at International fairs: the Gold Medal at the Puppet Theatre Festival in London and the Gold Prize at the Festival of Russian Puppet Plays.

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